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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

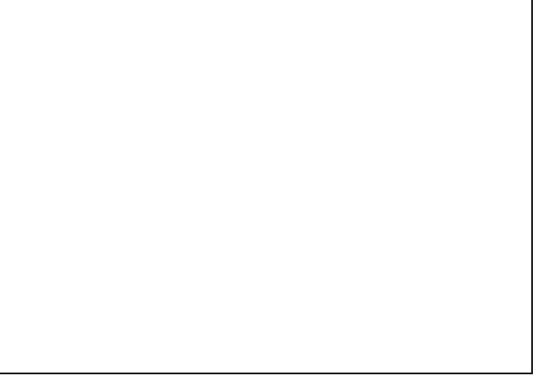
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India: Conflicts within Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet are deepening.

Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai has informed Ambassador Bowles that he now believes he cannot indefinitely back Mrs. Gandhi. Long her chief rival and one of her strongest critics, Desai has loyally given important support to the prime minister since his return to the cabinet after the elections in the spring of 1967. Recently, however, there have been signs of growing strain in their relations and supporters of Mrs. Gandhi may be aiding a leftist campaign in Parliament to discredit Desai.



Mrs. Gandhi, for her part, is determined to remain in office. Despite her alienation from most of the important party bosses and considerable disenchantment with her performance on the part of rank and file Congress Party deputies, little real enthusiasm has been generated for her ouster.

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